

A EUROPEAN PRIMROSE IN NEW ENGLAND.—I had some trouble in believing my eyes when, in May, 1917, I ran across a colony of *Primula officinalis* (the English cowslip) very much at home on a shaded river-bank in Salisbury, Conn. There were forty or fifty plants within a fifty-foot square, perhaps a dozen of them in bloom, the others small and appearing like seedlings from their larger and more vigorous neighbors. The colony was visited again in 1918, and found to be flourishing, having increased somewhat both in number of plants and area covered. Last summer Mr. C. C. Hanmer showed me specimens of the same species collected by him in the township of Greene, Maine, where two or three small patches had been discovered along a rivulet in a meadow by Miss Mutty of Lewiston.

P. officinalis Jacq. (or *P. veris* L., according to one's interpretation of the Linnaean treatment) is a common and wide-spread Eurasian species, sometimes grown in gardens here. It is reported to set seed freely in cultivation. The Salisbury station is near a spot where a steep bank between road and river offers to inhabitants of nearby houses an inviting opportunity to get rid of rubbish. Debris from gardens or earth from flower pots, thrown down here and containing *Primula* seeds may account for its presence.

A search in the literature at hand has failed to disclose any previous record of *Primula officinalis* as spontaneous in the eastern United States. In his *Catalogue of Canadian Plants*, however, Professor John Macoun says of it: "Well established in meadows about a mile inland from North Sydney, Cape Breton; also in meadows at Victoria, Vancouver Island."—C. A. WEATHERBY, East Hartford, Conn.

OXALIS MONTANA.—In 1918 I pointed out¹ several characters by which the northern Wood Sorrel of eastern America differs from the Old World *O. acetosella* L. and took up for the American plant the name *O. americana* Bigelow (1824). But unfortunately I overlooked, as others have done, the fact that the American plant had been properly named in 1818 by Rafinesque. In his review of Pursh's *Flora Americae Septentrionalis* Rafinesque said: "*Oxalis acetosella*, P. is in the same predicament [different from the European species],

¹ Fernald, RHODORA, XX, 76-78 (1918).